

NEWS RELEASE

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Eleven University of Saint Mary Spires Named 'Scholar-Athletes' by the NAIA

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Eleven University of Saint Mary students have been named as 2011-2012 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) for their efforts both in the classroom and on the field of play.

In order to receive the NAIA scholar-athlete award, students must be nominated by their head coach, must have achieved junior standing academically, and must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The 11 honored Spires come from a variety of USM Fall sports: three from football, five from men's soccer, two from women's soccer, and one from volleyball.

The award-winners from the Spires Football Team are quarterback **Mike Keese**, a senior from Olathe, Kan.; offensive lineman **Evan Osborne**, a senior from Conroe, Texas; and offensive lineman **Derek Bauman**, a junior from Atchison, Kan.

The honorees from the USM Men's Soccer Team are goalkeeper **Preston Becker**, a senior from Hays, Kan.; defenseman **Michael Bille**, a senior from Bonner Springs, Kan.; midfielder **Nick Alford**, a junior from Topeka, Kan.; midfielder **Nick Stevenson**, a senior from Lansing, Kan.; and goalkeeper **Alex Waite**, a senior from Blue Springs, Mo.

Winning the Scholar-Athlete designation from the Lady Spires Women's Soccer team were midfielder **Kathleen Hermes**, a senior from Lawrence, Kan.; and midfielder **Claire Beebe**, a junior from Wichita, Kan.

Shelby Titus, a junior setter from Ottawa, Kan., represented the USM Volleyball Team on the honor roll.

"All of these players are very deserving of this honor," said university Athletic Director Rob Miller. "These young men and women work as hard in the classroom as they do in their respective sports. Academics are always at the forefront at Saint Mary, and what these student-athletes accomplished is something that makes us all proud."

Saint Mary has 12 varsity sports programs—football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and track & field—along with co-ed cheerleading and dance. Go to www.GoSpires.com for more information on USM sports.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.